

ABSTRACT

[00206] Combination ablation and visualization apparatus for ablating cardiac tissue which comprises an elongated body including a first end and a second end opposite to the first end. First and second jaws are carried at the first end of the body and are movable between a spaced-apart open position and a closed position. Each jaw comprises an electrode for connection to a terminal of an RF energy generator for ablating cardiac tissue located between the jaws. A dissecting member is carried by the jaws for separating adjoining cardiac tissues to obtain access to or visualization of a selected epicardial surface. A fluid pathway extends between the first and second ends of the body and terminates in at least one aperture at the first end of the body. Fluid may be introduced through the apparatus to clear an operative field to enhance visualization of a site for ablation by the jaws.